

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: RUNDOWN OF SPANISH TRADE UNIONS ON EVE OF LEGALIZATION

1. WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE LEGALIZATION OF TRADE UNIONS

BILL (MADRID 2396) NOTAL), SPAIN'S UNTIL NOW ILLEGAL TRADE

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UNIONS WILL BE ABLE TO INITIATE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

COMMENCING APRIL 28 (MADRID 3121 NOTAL). IT MAY BE USEFUL

BRIEFLY TO REVIEW THE PRINCIPAL SPANISH TRADE UNION ELEMENTS

LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN THE LEGALIZATION PROCESS.

2. FOUR NATIONAL CONFEDERATIONS CURRENTLY TOP THE LIST:

(A) THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CONFEDERACION SINDICAL DE

COMISIONES OBRERAS (CCOO)/SYNDICAL CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC), (B) THE SOCIALIST UNION GENERAL DE TRABAJADORES (UGT)/GENERAL UNION OF WORKERS, (C) THE CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST UNION SINDICAL OBRERA (USO)/WORKER SYNDICAL UNION, AND (D) THE ANARCHO-SYNDICAL CONFEDERACION NACIONAL DEL TRABAJO/NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR. THE LEADERS OF THE "BIG FOUR" ARE, IN ORDER, MARCELINO CAMACHO, NICLOAS REDONDO, JOSE MARIA ZUFIAUR, AND JUAN GOMEZ CASAS.

3. THE TWO PRINCIPAL REGIONAL UNIONS ARE THE BASQUE SOLIDARIDAD DE TRABAJADORES VASCOS (STV)/ SOLIDARITY OF BASQUE WORKERS (HEADED BY MANUEL ROBLES AND JOSE LEDUNDA) AND THE CATALAN SOLIDARIDAD DE OBREROS CATALANES (SOC)/SOLIDARITY OF CATALAN WORKERS (SECRETARY GENERAL: XAVIER CASASSAS). TWO SO-CALLED "UNITARY" UNIONS, SITUATION TO THE LEFT OF THE SWC, RECENTLY SPRUNG UP WHEN MAOIST MINORITY ELEMENTS BELONGING TO THE PTE (SPANISH LABOR PARTY) AND THE ORT (REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS) SPLIT OFF FROM THE PCE (SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY) MAJORITY FACTION OF THE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS. IN THEIR TWO VERSIONS (PTE AND ORT), THE UNIONS HAVE TAKEN THE NAME OF CONFEDERACION DE SINDICATOS UNITARIOS (CSU)/CONFEDERATION OF UNITARY UNIONS.

3. TWO UNTIL NOW RELATIVELY WEAK UNIONS (CHARACTERIZED BY MANY OBSERVERS AS "YELLOW UNIONS") HAVE EMERGED FROM THE VERTICAL STRUCTURE OF THE CRUMBLING OFFICIAL SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO): THE ALIANZA SINDICAL OBRERA (ASO)/WORKER SYNDICAL ALLIANCE AND THE "REFORMIST" CONFEDERACION SINDICAL OBRERA (CSO)/WORKER SYNDICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFEDERATION. THERE IS ALSO A GROWING TENDENCY FOR SSO INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS TO DESERT THE SINKING SSO SHIP AND DECLARE THEMSELVES "INDEPENDENT". THE MOST POWERFUL OF THESE (ALSO CONSIDERED "YELLOW") IS THE SINDICATO DE TRABAJADORES DE LA CONSTRUCCION (STC)/CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION. SSO PUBLIC SANITATION WORKERS AND FOOD WORKERS HAVE ALSO RECENTLY DECLARED THEIR "INDEPENDENCE". IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE AISS (ADMINISTRATION OF SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) HAS OFFICIALLY TAKEN OVER THE ACTUAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SSO, AS WELL AS ITS 34,000 FUNCTIONARIES. THE AISS IS PRESIDED OVER BY SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA MATA, AND FALLS UNDER THE PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO.

4. TWO CATHOLIC CHURCH-ORIENTED LABOR GROUPS (NOT SPECIFICALLY TRADE UNIONS) ARE THE HERMANDAD DE OBREROS DE ACCION CATOLICA (HOAC)/CATHOLIC ACTION WORKER BROTHERHOOD AND THE HERMANDADES DE TRABAJO/WORKER BROTHERHOODS. ALTHOUGH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY UNSUCCESSFUL AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN SPAIN, RUMORS PERSIST THAT EFFORTS ARE

UNDERWAY TO PROVIDE SUCH A "NON-SOCIALIST OPTION" TO CENTER-ORIENTED SPANISH WORKERS. IN THE MEANTIME, A SMALL "CHRISTAIN" UNION WAS RECENTLY CONSTITUTED: THE CONFEDERACION DE TRAJBAJADORES Y TECNICOS CRISTIANOS DE ESPANA (CTC)/CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN WORKERS AND TECHNICIANS OF SPAIN. FINALLY, OF FALANGIST ORIGIN, THERE IS THE CENTRAL OBRERA NACIONAL SINDICALISTA (CONS)/NATIONAL SYNDICALIST WORKER CENTER.

5. THE LIST OF 17 NON-GOVERNMENTAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IDENTIFIED ABOVE -MANY STILL VERY WEAK - IS FAR FROM ALL-INCLUSIVE. ON BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT EXTREMIST FRINGES THERE EXIST SPLINTER GROUPS OF MAOIST, TROTSKYITE, ANARCHIST, CARLIST, FALANGIST AND OTHER ESORERIC PERSUASIONS. ONE LABOR SOURCE CLAIMS TO HAVE IDENTIFIED SOME 30 DIFFERENT "OPPOSTION"AND UNTIL NOW ILLEGAL LABOR GROUPS. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH LABATT (MADRID 2029, NOTAL, LABOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTER ALVARO RENGIFO DEPLORED THE SPLINTERING OF THE LABOR SECTOR ("WE ALREADY HAVE 13 DIFFERENT UNIONS OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE"), AND HOPED THAT LABOR WAS NOT USING THE HIGHLY-FRAGMENTED POLITICAL PARTY STRUCTURE AS A GUIDE (SOME 125 PARTIES ALREADY LEGALIZED AT THIS WRITING). OF COURSE, MANY OF THE SPLINTER AND FRINGE LABOR ELEMENTS WILL FALL BY THE WAYSIDE AND/OR WILL FAIL TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FRO LEGALIZATION. CURRENTLY, HOWEVER, THE SPANISH TRADE UNION SCENE IS INDEED A CLUTTERED ONE, EVEN THOUGH IT REPRESENTS ONLY THREE PERCENT OF SPAIN'S CLOSE TO TEN MILLION INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.STABLER

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